

# THE TELEGRAPH.

ASHTABULA, OHIO.

Friday Morning, Feb. 9th, 1877.

The business of the Standard Oil Company, which has heretofore necessitated the employment of nearly 3,000 persons, has slackened to that extent that all but 1,000 men have been discharged.

A frightful story of butchery in a revolutionary outbreak at Cali, in New Grenada, is brought from Panama, which in cruelty and atrocity could not be surpassed by the stories of Indian warfare.

One of the weak points in the electoral bill is already developed, and calls for correction by a special act. It is found that, technically, neither House can adjourn until the count is completed.

While at least forty thousand working men in New York city and Brooklyn are without employment, and almost starving, we have the spectacle of six hundred laborers on a strike, marching behind a band of music.

A bill providing for a registry law was introduced into the Senate on Saturday last by Mr. Bently, which prescribes that no person not registered shall be permitted to vote unless he shall have resided in the county 90 days, and in the township or ward 30 days.

The ladies are displaying more and more talent for political organization. The ladies of Mrs. Phoebe Hansford's congregation concluded they would prefer a man preacher; the gentlemen members stuck to Mrs. Hansford. The ladies "packed" the church meeting and outvoted the men, forty-five to forty-two. The latter threaten to secede and form a new church, with Mrs. Hansford as pastor.

The River and Harbor bill, says the *Leader*, will be reported from the House Committee on Commerce to-day. The appropriation for Cleveland Harbor is put down in the bill at \$40,000. At this rate some of the youngest children now living in Cleveland may, if they have good constitutions and pay strict attention to the laws of health for sixty or seventy years, see one side of the Breakwater nearly finished.

We find no item of appropriation for Ashtabula Harbor in the published list of appropriations.

Col. Miles in command at the head quarters on the Yellow Stone sent a dispatch on the 20th ult. that his command fought the hostile tribes of Cheyenne and Ogallala Sioux, under Crazy Horse, in skirmishes on the 1st, 3d and 7th of January and in a five hours' engagement on the 8th inst. Their camp, of some six hundred lodges, extended three miles along the valley of the Tongue River. The result was a complete defeat, and severe loss. The loss of the command was three killed and eight wounded. The Indians fought entirely dismounted, and charged to within fifty yards of Capt. Casey's line, but were taken in front and flank by Capt. Butler's and Lieut. McDonald's companies. They were whipped at every point, and driven from the field and pursued as far as the limited supplies and worn-down animals would carry the command.

A BIG THING COME TO GRIEF.—A fellow by the name of Maddox has made himself famous as well as infamous by an effort to fix a negotiation between himself and ex-governor Wells by which, for the sum of a million of dollars, the ex-governor as chairman of the Returning Board of that State, was to turn the electoral vote of the State over to Tilden. Alleged conferences and correspondence were entered into. Mr. David Dudley Field, supposing he had got hold of a rich thing against the Republicans, assayed to turn it and its author to the best account. Another fellow by the name of Pickett, who was partner in the affair. Unfortunately, ex-Governor Wells contradicted the testimony of Maddox in every essential detail. He had no conversation whatever with Maddox in regard to the use of money to influence the result of the election; he sent no such telegrams as those attributed to him; he never intimated that he wanted a million of dollars, or any other sum, to count the vote of the State for Tilden; and he never met or, indeed, knew of the existence of Col. Pickett as a co-adjutor of Maddox. Compelled to choose between the testimony of Mr. Wells and that of the pair of self-convicted scoundrels who are his accusers, there can be but little hesitation as to which ought to be accepted. It does not require a belief in the immaculate virtue of the Chairman of the Louisiana Board or in that of his associates, to refuse to condemn them on any such evidence as that which has been trumped up for Democratic use. The meanest criminal would not be convicted on the testimony of rascals by profession like Maddox and Pickett, and whatever people may think of the general credibility of the members of the Louisiana Returning Board, they are entitled to the full benefit of the very explicit denials with which they have met the assertions of David Dudley Field's pet witnesses.

Cough No More.—There need be no Coughs or Colds where Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption is used. The most severe case of cough, hoarseness, pain in the chest, bleeding of the lungs yield to its wonderful power almost instantly. A few doses will invariably cure the worst cough or cold. For asthma or bronchitis it is a perfect specific. Consumptive and cough-worn patients never fail to find relief in this great discovery. We would advise any one tired of experimenting with physician's prescriptions or quack medicines, to drop them at once, and use Dr. King's New Discovery. Give it a fair trial. Regular size \$1. Trial bottles free. For sale by A. R. Thurber & Co.

## Financial.

Financial speculation, as our readers are aware, has heretofore taken a wide range, and any quantity of grave harangues and despatches have come into being with oracular wisdom quite astonishing to the village readers and listeners. Predictions have not been spare or sparse, and prophets and prophecy met us at nearly every turn. What a pity that so much wisdom has been, by the logic of events, left to waste its sweetness upon the desert air. Finance has risen to the dignity of asserting its own independence, and though blind as a bat, has shown, as is generally the case, wonderful sagacity in interpreting the signs of the times and instinctively following the laws of trade. Almost every day shows the decline in gold and a rapid approximation in values between paper and the precious metals. This is due to a few plain reasons, that almost any common reader and common intelligence may appreciate. In obedience to the balance of trade abroad, the current of gold is setting towards this country, and the supply is considerably increased, and the opinion is indulged, with some degree of confidence, that this state of things is likely to be continued. The reasoning upon which this conclusion is founded, is that we have got into a wholesome relation with other countries, and the stringency of the times, and the necessity for economy are the cause of it. Importations have fallen off, and while gold is flowing in upon us, the demand for its use in the payment of customs has fallen off in the same ratio. It is, therefore, becoming plenty and proportionately cheap. The natural consequence is its assimilation to greenbacks in value. At the same time the product of the precious metals in the country is increasing and adding to the stock on hand. Here, then, is a state of things that suggests the practicability of resumption at pleasure. This, too, in the face of all the erudite conclusions that have been outbraded upon the country—that resumption was impracticable, and if persisted in as encouraged by enactment, would involve the country in financial disaster and ruin! Such are the favorable circumstances for resumption, that the President has sent a message to Congress, intimating that though it may not be desirable to anticipate the date for resumption in the act, it will be most desirable and beneficial to the national interests of the country that the day should be hastened, when gold and paper should have an equal value, and that when that time shall have arrived, it may be considered advisable to authorize and direct a return to specie payments without waiting for the date fixed in the act. While this is the position of the message, it is asserted that the President has expressed, privately, the opinion that the time has already come when resumption may be entered upon with safety. Other features of the message, and its suggestions and recommendations, are put in the following abstract form by our contemporary—the *Cleveland Herald*:

The Resumption act provided for the accumulation of gold by the sale of four-and-a-half per cent. bonds, the proceeds to be devoted to the work of redeeming the outstanding legal tenders. All that is now needed, in the opinion of the President, is to reduce the amount of outstanding legal tenders so that the gold obtained by the sale of the bonds in Europe and by accumulation in other ways will be sufficient for the purpose desired. To do this he recommends the amendment of the resumption act so as to authorize the issue of bonds, to an extent not exceeding one hundred and fifty millions, bearing interest at four per cent., and running forty years, the sole use of which shall be their exchange for legal tenders in sums of fifty dollars or multiples of that sum. The supposition is that the holders of legal tenders, now lying idle, will exchange them for the four per cent. bonds, and thus the volume of the currency will be reduced to the actual wants of trade. To encourage the retention of the bonds in this country they can be made available for deposit in the United States Treasury by national banks as the basis of issue for banking purposes. In this way the volume of note circulation could always be kept equal to the wants of trade. The message also makes suggestions in regard to provision by national banks of means for redemption of their notes on demand, and recommends the repeal of that feature of the law relating to the issue of subsidiary silver coin and fractional currency which restricts the issue to a definite sum.

People who wonder why the Democrats did not like Gen. Garfield's going on the electoral commission may get some clue to it from this opening paragraph of his speech: "We have been told to-day in this Chamber that there is danger of civil war if the bill does not pass. I was amazed at the folly which could use such a suggestion as an argument in favor of this or any other measure. When you tell me that civil war is threatened by any party or State in this Republic, you have given me a supreme reason why any Congress should refuse, with unutterable scorn, to listen to those who threaten, or do any act whatever under the coercion of threats by any power on the earth. With all my soul, I despise your threat of civil war, come it from what quarter or party it may. Brave men, certainly a brave nation, will do nothing under such compulsion. We are intrusted with the work of obeying and defending the Constitution. I will not be deterred from obeying it because some threaten to destroy it. I dismiss all that class of motives as unworthy of Americans."

The Grand Central Hotel, New York, noted for its profuse and elaborate decorations and elegant table, now offers the same accommodations at a reduction from \$4.00 to \$2.50 and \$3.00 per day.

## What has Been Said and Done at the Coroner's Inquest.

Saturday, Feb. 3.

The jury met at nine o'clock this morning and adjourned until two o'clock this afternoon, when Mr. George H. Carpenter, of Cleveland, was called and sworn and testified as follows: I am now employed by the King Iron Bridge Company in Cleveland. At the time the Ashtabula bridge was built I was employed in the Lake Shore Shops in Cleveland, but afterwards had charge of the raising of the bridge with Mr. Rogers under my directions. Mr. Joseph Tomlinson had charge of the work on the bridge for a short time, but he and Mr. Stone could not agree, and he left. Mr. Albert Congdon then took charge of the work and remained until it was completed. The bridge was built after the Howe Truss plan. When the braces were sent down here they had no marks on them so as to show where they belonged.

We put the main braces in their web horizontal, but we afterwards altered them so that their webs were vertical. In erecting the bridge we experienced considerable trouble in the top cord, the members of which were too long. I applied to Mr. Congdon to know what I should do and he came down here with Mr. Stone. They did not give me any advice while they were here but afterwards told me to send the top angle block to Cleveland to have the lugs planed off. This was done and we had no further trouble.

After we had completed the erection of the bridge Mr. Stone and Mr. Congdon came down and looked at it; Mr. Stone expressed himself well satisfied with the work and told me that it was well done. We then laid the floor beams, but did not remove the blocking, as Mr. Stone had given Mr. Rogers orders not to do so yet. Mr. Congdon told me "when blocking was removed and the bridge began to settle that we would have to change the main braces or the damned thing would go into the river."

He then told me that the main braces must be placed vertical instead of horizontal; this was done, but to do it we were obliged to chip off the lugs on the angle block. I do not consider this system of lateral bracing in this bridge good for anything. I have been a locomotive engineer and have frequently noticed the difference between a deck and a through bridge in regard to lateral motion. A deck bridge is more liable to that than a through bridge. I had had no practical experience in bridge building until I worked on this one. I never knew of their ever building any other wrought iron bridges at the Lake Shore shops. I never knew that they made it a part of their business to build bridges. The principle defects were in the main braces, the lateral braces and diagonal sway braces. I should think that this would break at the west end. I should expect that the main braces would first buckle.

Monday, Feb. 5.

The coroner's inquest was resumed this morning. Harvey Tilden of Cleveland was called and sworn. He is an hydraulic engineer and has charge of all the water works of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railways. He considers the pump used at Ashtabula as equal to the best in use. There are five double fire hydrants attached to the pump, three of which are at the depot. The hydrant at the depot of the road might see the pump tested. The test was made from hydrant because this one was not completed when the pump was ready for use. The pump can throw nearly nine hundred gallons per minute; the hydrants at the depot and round-house were put there to protect the buildings of the company from fire. No hose was provided for these hydrants because they had had luck with several kinds of hose and were testing hose in view of supplying the whole road at the time of the accident. They have placed some rubber hose here since the accident for the protection of the wooden bridge.

Mr. Manning has been represented by the Associated Press dispatches as saying that there were fire hoses at the pump house, but the hydrant, and also that he turned off the cap of the fire-pump on the hose at the fire engine house and found they would not fit, and was afterwards obliged to admit that they did so fit, desires to say in explanation with the approval of the jury that there were fire hoses at the pump-house, and that the hose upon which he tried the cap was a section of rubber hose left with the Fire Department for trial, and which did not fit either the cap or the hose in use by the Fire Department at Ashtabula.

Tuesday, Feb. 6.

At the Coroner's inquest Tuesday, Mr. B. Morton, a New Haven civil engineer, was examined as the first witness. He thinks it may have added very materially to the strength of this bridge if the main braces of each set had been attached to each other throughout their length. He thinks that the factor of safety used in planning this bridge was insufficient. He has not examined the bridge but draws his conclusions from examining the drawings. There is more tendency to lateral motion in a deck than in a through bridge, and it is a very important matter to provide against it. He thinks that the lower lateral braces of this bridge were not attached to the corbels at the lower places, and does not think that the bridge should have deteriorated by use with proper care. He thinks that all iron railway bridges should be tested by loading them as often as every eight or ten years, and he does not think that a slight displacement of the main braces from their original positions on angle blocks would materially diminish their efficiency, but that such displacement should have been noticed by the inspector and remedied immediately.

Mr. Charles Pease, General Superintendent of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railway, was examined. He has a list of those supposed to have been on the wrecked train. Some of whom were at first reported missing have been ascertained not to have been on the train. Some were simply mistaken and others were fraudulently reported. The list contains the names of seventy-two adults and eight children supposed to have been lost, and sixty-nine saved, and some are marked as having been on the train. This list includes the names of all known to have been on the train, both passengers and employes, many of whom have not

been identified by any article found among the ruins. He had no means knowing how many were on the train, except by the conductor's report, which shows one hundred and twenty-eight adult passengers, six train men, five sleeping car hands, three express men, two baggage men and one news-boy. Concerning the removed orders about the use of water on the fire, he says that he did not issue any such orders, and knows of no such orders being issued by any of the company. He further said that Mr. Collins never expressed any distrust of the safety of the bridge to him, and on the contrary said to him that its only fault in his opinion was its great surplus of strength. It would have been the duty of Mr. Collins to have reported the fact to him if he had considered it unsafe, and he says that he thinks if Mr. Collins had felt any distrust in the bridge he would have mentioned it to him very quickly. Mr. Collins was as faithful and of as good judgment and as firm in condemning anything he considered unsound as any man he ever knew.

Miss Etile Hamilton of Lafayette, Ind., who was reported as killed, writes to the coroner that she is alive and well, not having been on the train. The report started from the finding of a locket bearing her name. Several similar cases have been reported, and doubtless this is not the last.

The inquest adjourned for other witnesses. It is thought that another day may close up the examinations.

## OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Political.—The Charity Ball—A Serious Case—Business.

POLITICAL.

The passage of the compromise electoral bill, has soothed the timid souls of the business men who had been built-down by Tilden and his gang, by fear of war. The straight Republicans don't believe in it, and never did, for they knew it was a trick of the Democratic spoilsman, and was contrived to make the great demagogue President. It was artfully contrived, and carried out with diabolic skill. Tilden had his local copperhead press breathe war and gore till he got the business interest shaking in its shoes; and then he appeared with this proposition to arbitrate for a place he never had the shadow of a claim to. It was eagerly accepted and the little game was about to win, when, presto, one of those sudden changes which even a Tilden cannot foresee, took place, and his kettle of fish is upset. Tilden expected to have a majority of the Supreme Court with him, but the election of Davis to the Illinois Senate made that impossible, and Bradley, a good Republican and an honest man, takes the place, giving the Republicans the majority of the Commission. Now the Democracy are not so much in favor of it as they were. When it was supposed that Davis, a bitter partisan, was to be the fifth judge, thus giving the Tildenites a majority of the Commission, it was all pleasant. But now that the majority on the Commission are Republicans, it is quite another thing, and the *Sun* and other rabid Democratic sheets are as extravagant in their denunciation of it as they were in its praise a week ago. Tilden is as mad as a March hare about Davis, and has asked him not to accept the senatorial position to which he has been elected, but remain on the bench. But Mr. Davis is not stupid enough to forego his ambition to serve Mr. Tilden's and so he politely declined, and Bradley was selected. This ensures Hayes fair, legal treatment, and that is all any Republican wants. If he is legally elected, he must be inaugurated—if not, not. The Republicans of the city are jubilant over this result.

The position of Senator Conkling, of this State is unfavorably commented on. It is not denied that he felt very much aggrieved at the nomination of Hayes. He retired from public gaze after the convention, and did not emerge from his retirement till after the struggle was over. He supported the compromise in a way that was singular, to say the least, for a Republican, and his enemies in the city assert that he is preparing for a change of base. It is not supposed that he will go over to the Democracy, but it is expected that he, Davis, and a dozen others who have had a half and half affiliation with the Republican party, will organize an independent body, and be the Spanish flies of the body. Conkling is scorching, and is in the precise frame of mind to make a fool of himself, as greater men than he have done. It is a pity that a man with the talents he possesses could not be better balanced. He has too good an opinion of himself.

CHARITY.

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Many of which have been marked down to LESS THAN COST, in order to reduce our very large stock.

We will not stop to give a list of bargains, as it would take all the space in a good sized book, and simply overflow the small space allotted us in this paper; we will only ask you to call and satisfy yourselves.

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ASHTABULA, OHIO. 1413

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etc., which are to be sold at the lowest cash prices. Also a full line of

Cigars, and the

Best French Candies

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